



STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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DENNIS C. MILANOVICH
First Selectman

DENNIS W. FRAWLEY
Deputy First Selectman

PETER J. CHARTER
MARK D. LEIGHTON
A. LEO MILLER, JR.
MICHAEL P. STUPINSKI
NANCY O. WAY

SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, September 26, 2005
Town Hall Meeting Hall

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Peter Charter, Dennis Frawley, Mark Leighton, Dennis Milanovich, A. Leo Miller, Michael Stupinski and Nancy Way

OTHERS PRESENT: Resident: K. Stupinski and JI Reporter: M. Simpson

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER:

First Selectman Milanovich called the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to order at 7:35 p.m.

II. RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT TOWN PLANNER:

Ms. Way said she was one of three of the interviewers that interviewed Mr. Phillips. The other two were Bruce Hoben of Planimetrics and Linda Farmer, Tolland Town Planner. Ms. Way stated the Mr. Phillips was polite, honest and forthright. He is intelligent and discussed his strong points as well as his weaknesses in regard to the Town Planner position. He is eager to take courses to obtain the certification that is required of the position. He has noteworthy background experience, having worked in Windsor Locks for two years as Planning Coordinator and Zoning/Wetlands Officer. He gets along well with co-workers and the public. He has already made some gradual changes in the Planning Department. He works well under pressure situations. Ms. Way said she had some reservations due to lack of planning experience, however the two technical interviewers had no reservations as Mr. Phillips had good qualifications. They also assured Mr. Phillips that they would provide technical assistance, if needed.

Ms. Way said she was very impressed with Mr. Phillips. She said Mr. Phillips is very bright and certainly has the ability to obtain the required certification. He likes the Town and realizes the problems of the Planning Department.

Mr. Leighton said that it appears that the technical interviewers were impressed with Mr. Phillips and had a great deal of confidence in him. It is an important factor that Mr.

Phillips is familiar with the problems of the Planning Department and is aware of the work that needs to be done.

Mr. Stupinski said he made some independent inquiries regarding Mr. Phillips. Mr. Stupinski said he has heard nothing but good things about Mr. Phillips and that is a huge asset. Mr. Stupinski felt, however, that it may be prudent of the Town to seek more applicants, who have planning experience. He suggested appointing Mr. Phillips as interim planner pending seeking additional applicants.

Mr. Milanovich said he was not sure he would get a commitment from any employee on that basis. If the Town wants to open the search, then it should just advertise outside. He preferred that the BOS make a commitment to Mr. Phillips. He has good qualifications and Mr. Milanovich is confident Mr. Phillips will obtain his certification. He was interviewed by a member of the BOS and two technical personnel. All were impressed with Mr. Phillips.

Mr. Frawley agreed with Mr. Milanovich. Mr. Phillips appears to fit in with other personnel in the Planning Department. He is also proficient in GIS. Mr. Frawley added that Mr. Phillips would have to satisfactorily complete a 90-day probationary period.

Mr. Charter felt that the Town has nothing to lose by advertising this position to see if more qualified candidates apply. There was only one applicant interviewed. There should be a bigger pool of applicants.

Mr. Miller supported Mr. Charter. Mr. Miller encourages the most open process possible. He questioned liability issues for the Town in hiring someone without the technical knowledge. Mr. Leighton said that the Town establishes criteria for positions. Liability should not be an issue. He added that he is confident that Mr. Phillips will obtain the required certification for the position.

Mr. Milanovich recommended appointing Mr. Phillips for the position of Town Planner and urged the BOS to support his recommendation.

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (WAY) TO APPOINT ROBERT PHILLIPS AS TOWN PLANNER FOR THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON WHO SHALL SERVE AN INDEFINITE TERM AT AN ANNUAL SALARY OF \$57,500 WITH A STARTING DATE SEPTEMBER 27, 2005.

Mr. Stupinski said, although he still had reservations, he felt that the BOS should move forward with this appointment. Mr. Leighton added that the BOS should give Mr. Phillips undivided support.

VOTE: FRAWLEY, LEIGHTON, MILLER, STUPINSKI AND WAY VOTED – AYE.
CHARTER VOTED – NAY.

MOTION PASSES.

III. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Appointments:

MOVED (FRAWLEY) SECONDED (LEIGHTON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION TO FILL A REPUBLICAN VACANCY.

Mr. Milanovich stated he was saddened by the recent passing of Ernie Boothroyd. It is difficult to replace Ernie. His passing is a big loss to the Town. He was a very knowledgeable man and will be missed. BOS concurred

MOVED (CHARTER), SECONDED (FRAWLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT LORI HOLDEN AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO JANUARY 31, 2007.

IV. 80 MAPLE STREET PURCHASE (ROCHE) – BONDING REQUIREMENTS:

Tabled to October 17, 2005.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 8:24 P.M.

Submitted by Carol York Approved by Dennis Milanovich